

Vocabulary Power**Lesson 1 Using Context Clues**

How you react when faced with physical or emotional danger can often mean the difference between life and death. The words in this lesson relate to matters of life and death.

**Word List****commemorate****eulogy****predator****sustenance****dire****immortality****quarry****vital****epitaph****longevity****EXERCISE A Context Clues**

When you come across an unfamiliar word while reading, you can often use clues from the “context,” the sentence or paragraph in which it appears, to figure out the word’s meaning. For each sentence below use context clues to determine the meaning of the boldfaced vocabulary word.

Write your definition of the word. Then, look up the word and write the dictionary definition.

1. To remember those who died, we will build a monument to **commemorate** them.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. In the **eulogy** at his grandmother’s funeral, Kimo spoke of all the wonderful things he remembered about her.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. From paintings that show whales attacking ships, you might not realize that a whale’s favorite **quarry** is giant squid.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. Many refugees would die unless they received **vital** supplies such as food and medicine.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. Bananas provided **sustenance** for the sailors who were shipwrecked on the island.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

6. A **dire** forecast on the radio prompted everyone to leave the hurricane area immediately.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_



## Vocabulary Power *continued*

7. People have long dreamed of achieving **immortality**, but would it really be good to live forever?

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

8. The words of the **epitaph** carved into the tombstone had worn away.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

9. Most plants are not **predators**, but the Venus's-flytrap captures and eats insects.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Longevity** runs in Rudy's family; all four of his grandparents have lived to ninety years of age.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISE B Usage

Circle the letter of the answer that best completes each sentence.

1. A **eulogy** probably would *not* contain \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. stories about good things the person had done
  - b. an excerpt from a poem the person had written
  - c. a detailed description of how the person died
  - d. reasons why the person will be remembered
2. An example of **sustenance** is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a bouquet of flowers
  - b. a loaf of bread
  - c. movies on videotape
  - d. toothpaste
3. A person's **epitaph** would probably contain \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the person's street address
  - b. photographs from a recent vacation
  - c. the person's baseball card collection
  - d. the person's birth date
4. You could **commemorate** someone by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. ignoring all of the person's faults
  - b. taking the person out for lunch
  - c. telling the person why you like him or her
  - d. dedicating a building in the person's honor
5. A **predator** would probably not be very successful if it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. was much weaker than its prey
  - b. could move very fast
  - c. was able to hide itself and remain very still
  - d. had large and powerful jaws

# Vocabulary Power

## Lesson 2 The Prefix *im-*

A prefix is a syllable placed before a root or base word to change or add to its meaning. Some prefixes have more than one meaning. For example, the prefix *im-* can mean "not," or it can mean "in," "within," or "into." The vocabulary words in this lesson have the prefix *im-* and are related to the theme of justice.

### Word List

**immaterial**

**imperceptible**

**impervious**

**imprint**

**impartial**

**impersonate**

**implausible**

**imprison**

**impenitent**

**imperturbable**

### EXERCISE A Synonyms

**Synonyms are words with similar meanings. Each boldfaced vocabulary word is paired with a synonym whose meaning you probably know. Brainstorm other words related to the meaning of the synonym and write your ideas on the line provided. Then, look up the vocabulary word in a dictionary and write its meaning.**

1. **impartial** : fair \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. **imprint** : impress \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. **imperceptible** : undetectable \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. **immaterial** : unimportant \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. **imperturbable** : calm \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

6. **imprison** : confine \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

7. **impenitent** : shameless \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

8. **impersonate** : imitate \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

9. **implausible** : unbelievable \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

10. **impervious** : unchanging \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Power *continued*

## **EXERCISE B** Base Words

**Write the meaning of the base word in each word below. Then, write the meaning of the word. Write a sentence for each word.**

1. impersonate \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. imperturbable \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. imprint \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. imprison \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. impervious \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **EXERCISE C** Sentence Completion

**Circle the word in each set of parentheses that best completes the sentence.**

1. It is against the law to (imprison, impersonate, imprint) a police officer.
2. The judge's (immaterial, impenitent, imperturbable) personality prevented him from becoming easily upset during the trial.
3. The slight twitching of the defendant's face was (imperceptible, impartial, impervious) to the jurors.
4. The lawyer tried to make the defendant contradict himself, but the man was (immaterial, impenitent, impervious) to her tactics.
5. The defendant smiled as she admitted her guilt, showing that she was (imperceptible, implausible, impenitent).

## **EXERCISE D** Headlines

**Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter covering the "trial of the century"—a court case that has everyone in the country glued to the radio and television. On a separate sheet of paper, write several newspaper headlines using five of the vocabulary words to describe what is happening in this imaginary trial.**



## Vocabulary Power



### Lesson 3 Word Families

A word family is made up of words that have a common origin or root. Many words in the English language trace their roots to Greek or Latin. The vocabulary words in this lesson belong to two Latin word families—*claudere*, meaning “to close,” and *strictus*, meaning “to bind.” All of the vocabulary words are related to the theme of facing limitations.

#### Word List

**cloister****enclosure****preclude****strain****close****exclude****restrict****stricture****constricting****exclusion**

#### EXERCISE A Context Clues

For each sentence below, use context clues to determine the meaning of the boldfaced vocabulary word. Write your definition of the word. Then, look up the word in a dictionary and write the definition.

1. The jeans Joel tried on were **constricting**, so he asked for a larger size.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. I try to **restrict** my intake of candy to one chocolate bar per week.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. Some students disliked the clothing **stricture** and wanted to dress however they pleased.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. I will need to **strain** to run faster than the other runners in the race.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. To **preclude** any problems underwater, the diver carefully checked his scuba equipment.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

6. To aid the firefighters, police decided to **close** the streets around the burning building.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

7. Scientists are often as reclusive as monks in a **cloister** when they are close to a breakthrough in their research.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_



## Vocabulary Power *continued*

8. We built a fence around our garden, hoping that animals would not get into the **enclosure**.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

9. Theaters must **exclude** children under seventeen years of age from R-rated movies.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

10. Jean-Pierre could not understand the **exclusion** of pets from American restaurants; in Paris he always took his dog along when he went to a café.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXERCISE B** Multiple-Meaning Words

Many words in English have more than one meaning. Each meaning, however, is based on the meaning of the word root. The word *close*, for example, is from the Latin root *claudere*, meaning "to close." A dictionary entry for *close* lists many different meanings, but all of them are related to the root meaning "to close." Use a dictionary to help you write the precise definition of *close* as it is used in each sentence below.

1. It is customary for banks to **close** on Thanksgiving Day.

Definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. Make sure to **close** the bag or the chips will become stale.

Definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. I wanted to **close** the conversation, but my little sister kept asking questions.

Definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please **close** and lock the door on your way out.

Definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. The state will **close** the beach until it is safe for people to swim.

Definition \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary Power

## Lesson 4 Using Reference Skills

### Using a Dictionary: Etymology

Many words in the English language are derived from words in other languages. Most dictionaries give information about a word's etymology, or origin, at the beginning or end of an entry. For example, if you looked up the word *scruple*, you might find the following information.

*scruple*, fr. L *scrupulus* cause of mental discomfort, dim. of *scrupus* sharp stone

In this case, the meaning of the Latin word *scrupus*, "sharp stone," evolved to mean a moral principle that makes a person hesitate before acting. Just as having a stone lodged painfully in your shoe would prevent you from walking, a scruple can prevent you from doing something that you know is wrong. Note that each dictionary uses a slightly different style for its word origin notes. A key to interpreting the notes appears at the beginning of the dictionary.

### EXERCISE A

Use a dictionary to find the etymology of each word below. Write the originating language, the word root, and the meaning of each root.

1. commemorate \_\_\_\_\_
2. dolphin \_\_\_\_\_
3. fiddle \_\_\_\_\_
4. quay \_\_\_\_\_
5. zoology \_\_\_\_\_
6. fortitude \_\_\_\_\_
7. fervent \_\_\_\_\_
8. potato \_\_\_\_\_
9. giraffe \_\_\_\_\_
10. kayak \_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISE B

Use your dictionary skills to solve a word origins puzzle. All of the words—except one—are derived from the same root. Read the following words: *maritime*, *marina*, *marinate*, *maroon*, *marinara*, *marine*, *mariner*. Which one does not belong?

What is the common root of the other words? What does it mean? From what language is it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Vocabulary Power



## Review: Unit 1

### EXERCISE

Circle the word in each set of parentheses that best completes the sentence.

1. After the battle ended, Lieutenant Shull sadly buried his fallen friend and carved an (exclusion, epitaph, immortality) into a nearby tree.
2. My puppy finds his (cloister, quarry, enclosure) in the backyard too (vital, constricting, imperceptible), so he's always trying to escape.
3. Some of the crew members wondered whether the director had made an (impartial, implausible, immaterial) decision when she gave her best friend the lead role in the play.
4. Despite the (impervious, dire, vital) forecast, the "blizzard" yielded less than an inch of snow.
5. Insects are not known for their (longevity, epitaph, stricture), but the female termite can live up to fifty years.
6. Each year on this date, my parents dress up like a bride and groom to (impersonate, preclude, commemorate) their wedding day.
7. From where she stood in the (cloister, stricture, eulogy), Jane looked out on the courtyard and enjoyed the (dire, implausible, imperturbable) calm.
8. Sean spent some extra time studying his geometry in order to (imprint, imprison, preclude) failure on the test.
9. Playing on a well-tuned piano is (impervious, immaterial, impenitent) if you haven't practiced the song.
10. The comedian was trying to (commemorate, exclude, impersonate) the president, but he didn't sound or act anything like him.
11. Brad had a hard time limiting his (eulogy, longevity, enclosure) to fifteen minutes because his grandfather had so many fine qualities.
12. The (stricture, cloister, sustenance) Sandy placed on her dog was to prevent him from chewing her shoes.
13. An experienced detective can find subtle clues that would be (impartial, implausible, imperceptible) to ordinary people.
14. The shark saw its (predator, quarry, cloister) and moved in for the kill.
15. I can't imagine why Victoria would (exclude, preclude, imprint) Amy from her birthday party; I thought they were good friends.